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Provisional summary record of the 29th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 18 July 2005, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Nesho (Vice-President) ..... (Albania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions:

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2005/66)

1. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Council had already made significant progress towards enhancing coherence in its overall work and the Secretariat had endeavoured to support that effort inter alia by structuring its reports in such a way as to highlight linkages — for example, by preparing a single report for the high-level and coordination segments. Recalling that the programme for the general segment was the most extensive and complex, he said that the Council could give its many items due attention by focusing on their linkages to one another and to the broader Council agenda. In many cases it was a question of simply connecting issues and tasks more deliberately to the broader strategic purposes they served.

2. Discussions on the promotion of integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences should build on the policy advances made at the high-level segment and aim to approach and structure intergovernmental work so as to optimize its contribution to the development agenda. A key example was the discussion on how better to organize the work of the Second and Third Committees and related aspects of the Council's work. As for follow-up to the Monterrey Conference and the Brussels Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Council should practise what it preached and do justice to the unique features of those conferences, while contributing to their effective integration in the wider development agenda.

3. Regarding management of its functional commissions the ongoing challenge was to ensure that the management function had policy content. The Secretary-General's consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions had therefore been reoriented and expanded in 2005. Its main innovation was its long-term view: it analysed the commissions' work around common themes and examined their progress in advancing the internationally agreed development goals over the past five years. His Department would welcome feedback on how reports could be improved further.

4. Recalling the need also for flexibility, he said that the Council should consider whether some tasks would fit better into other parts of its work. For example, it might wish to consider the annual reports of the Chief Executives Board during the coordination segment and it might have the allocation of items and reports guided by the substantive themes set each year for each segment. Of course, the fundamental question should continue to be what changes needed to be introduced to policies and processes to further the United Nations development agenda and the internationally agreed development goals.

5. The Council was on the verge of a major change in its approach to its core management and policy coordination functions and it should approach those functions as means to an essential end. The September Summit could truly launch the Council as the main force for the effective implementation of the development agenda.

6. **Mr. Rock** (Chairman Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti) introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2005/66), noting that, while the chief responsibility for building a stable and democratic Haiti rested in the hands of the Haitian people, the international community must play a supporting role over the long term. He drew attention to a number of key elements mentioned in the report: the need to strengthen the legitimacy of State institutions and engage in a decentralized decision-making process (para. 45); the need for the Government to focus on a few areas to demonstrate to the Haitian people that action was being taken, for example by giving consideration to the Quick Win interventions identified by the Millennium Project, while preparing the ground for longer-term investments (para. 49); the need to sequence activities, in order to build strong government ministries and ensure that steps to modernize the economy had a positive effect on the poor, and the need to revise legal codes as a key element of reforming the justice sector (para. 51). Work was currently under way to lay the foundation for a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

7. Noting that Haiti's transition was entering a critical period, he said that the international community must renew its commitment to assist the Haitian people over the long term. The Prime Minister of Haiti had

requested that the Group's mandate should be extended.

8. **Mr. Pierre** (Minister of Planning and External Cooperation, Haiti) noted that the Haitian Prime Minister fully endorsed the report and the conclusion that much remained to be done in Haiti. The Council had two important roles to play in that regard, namely to facilitate the development process by strengthening the Government's lead role, boosting programme implementation and mobilizing donors, and to integrate peace and development.

9. With regard to the strengthening of the Government's role, he stressed the need to build the Government's absorptive capacity, noting that the Emergency Economic Recovery Programme (EERP/PURE) of 1994 had paid very little attention to coordination and that a report on external aid absorption from that period had noted the Government's limitations in that regard. By contrast, much attention had been given to coordination of the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) of 2004 for donors had recognized that the Government played the lead role in defining programmes and priorities and had therefore aligned themselves with national priorities and harmonized their procedures accordingly. His Government intended to continue to work with donors in defining programmes. The Council should assist the Government in defining programmes and encourage donors to include the Government in initial discussions. With regard to boosting programme implementation, he said that ICF-related projects had not been implemented steadily, but rather through a series of conferences held to date in Washington (July 2004), Cayenne, France (March 2005) and Montreal (June 2005). ICF implementation had benefited from such unexpected supports and the contribution of a facilitator who could institutionalize such practices for other programmes would be welcome. The third aspect was donor mobilization.

10. As for the Council's second role, even though Security Council resolution 1542 (2004) gave that role to MINUSTAH, there would be a need to continue monitoring the parameters relating to stability with a view to recommending, as early as possible, appropriate forms of intervention. The Council, in conjunction with the Security Council, should be able to play that role. Such a role was not currently played by any donor in the field and would not therefore result in a duplication of existing mechanisms or unnecessary friction. On the contrary, the Council would act as a facilitator and a true intermediary, maintaining relationships with both the Government — through a strategic cell within the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, as announced in the Prime Minister's letter — and donors.

11. Acknowledging that Haiti's previous requests for a long-term programme must now take account of the recommendation that developing countries must establish a 10-year programme, at least, for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and that those Goals should also be integrated into national poverty reduction strategies, he said that the Interim Cooperative Framework would serve as an interim poverty reduction strategy for the Bretton Woods institutions until 30 September 2006. After that, Haiti would ideally have a validated poverty reduction strategy and a new programme, both endorsed by the donor community. Such considerations had led the Government to modify the institutional framework envisaged for drawing up its poverty reduction strategy. It would be drawing up a 10-year National Strategy to Combat Poverty which took account of the Millennium Goals. The strategy would be the succession of three-year programmes extracted from the longer and more ambitious National Strategy. As a result, the role of the steering committee would now be limited to guiding the process, while a strategic cell had been established to define the programme's content. The strategic cell, to be established shortly with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), would be attached to the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation and serve as the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's counterpart during the drafting phase. The Council was expected to assist not only in drawing up, but also in implementing the programme. During implementation, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's counterpart would be the operational coordination cell of the Ministry of Planning.

12. Lastly, he reiterated his Government's commitment to implementing the long-term programme and expressed the hope that draft resolution E/2005/L.20, which would extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until July 2006, would be adopted by consensus.

13. **Mr. Guindo** (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti) said that the country team had worked closely with the Government and

civil society in order to formulate a long-term development plan built around the poverty reduction strategy. The Prime Minister, together with the country team, had undertaken a national campaign to raise awareness about the Millennium Development Goals and foster dialogue with the people on their views about poverty and the priority that should be accorded to poverty reduction. In view of the interim nature of the Government, the Prime Minister was going to organize a two-day seminar with the political parties to discuss not only the mechanisms and tools of international cooperation, such as the interim cooperation framework, the national report on the Millennium Development Goals and poverty indicators, but also the environment in Haiti and the country's vulnerability to natural disasters.

14. As part of the country team's support to Government efforts to formulate a nationally-owned poverty reduction strategy, four strategic areas requiring institutional support had been identified: security and justice; democracy, decentralization and greater participation by the people in decision-making; support to elected representatives and to Parliament immediately following the October elections; and serious consideration to the establishment of a standing electoral council, the mechanism that would be vital for the management of post-election democracy.

15. **Ms. Miller** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group saying that it should continue to take into account the peculiarities of the situation confronting Haiti. In that regard, the long-term strategy and programme of support should continue to focus on areas such as education, poverty eradication, productive employment and sustainable development. It was essential for the Haitian people to have a stake in that process.

16. There should be more coordination and coherence by donors in addressing the actual needs of Haiti; there was also a need for flexibility in the disbursement procedures so as to allow for the early implementation of projects, thus providing for employment generation and effectively minimizing tension and discontent among the population. Given the steps taken by Haiti to restore its financial and economic stability consideration should be given to granting the country substantial debt relief. Since the forthcoming elections would lay the foundation for a return of confidence and stability, they should not be hindered by a lack of security. Therefore, increased attention should be paid to policing, the restoration of justice and the rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, human rights and the improvement of the condition of the poor. Furthermore, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group should continue to work together with Haiti in the areas of economic governance, transport infrastructure, environmental protection, energy, agriculture, education and the provision of land titles. The Group of 77 and China supported the renewal of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate and requested that adequate financial resources should be made available for it to continue its work.

17. **Ms. Moir** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, expressed support for the way the Ad Hoc Group had conducted its mandate by consulting all relevant partners. The Group's joint mission with the Security Council had demonstrated the value of bringing to bear the combined weight and experience of those two institutions on the challenges in Haiti and clearly demonstrated the strong links between development, human rights and security.

18. The elaboration of a poverty reduction strategy for Haiti would be one of the key mechanisms to help the Transitional Government and its successors to stay on track for long-term development and ensure that the international community provided the necessary support. The Council had a role to play in that regard. In addition, the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and donors should support the Government as it developed the poverty reduction strategy. In that regard, the European Union welcomed the creation of a strategic planning unit by the transitional Government in order to focus on the long-term development of the country.

19. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities were critical to a successful transition to development and should be sustained over the long term and complemented by activities to build structures and capacities for the rule of law. Elections would be critical for stability and future economic development. Since voter registration and education and election monitoring was crucial for the country's future, the

European Union had committed 10 million euros to support the organization of elections and was considering a further contribution of 8 million euros. It supported an extension of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate until the Council's substantive session of July 2006, taking into account developments on the proposal for a Peacebuilding Commission. Moreover, the experience of ad hoc advisory groups on countries emerging from conflict could be taken into account in the broader context of ongoing discussions within the United Nations on the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission.

20. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil) said that, while the root causes of unrest in Haiti, including poverty, required a long-term approach, a number of very serious issues must be addressed in the short and medium terms in order to ensure a successful transition process. The holding of free, fair and inclusive elections later on in the current year was the most pressing challenge facing Haiti and the international community. In that regard, the changes to the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) pursuant to Security Council resolution 1608 (2005) were intended to give that Mission the necessary means to remain fully engaged throughout the elections and beyond the installation of the new Government in February 2006.

21. However, neither genuine stability nor an environment conducive to elections could be achieved in the absence of safe and secure living conditions, national reconciliation through dialogue and the promotion of social and economic development. Since the revival of Haiti's economy was vital to a smooth political transition, it was essential to speed up the implementation of quick impact projects and to establish a long-term strategy reflecting the priority areas indicated by the Government. In that context, donors and international financial institutions should speed up the disbursement of pledged funds. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group could continue to play an important role in establishing a long-term institution-building and development strategy by working closely with the Transitional Government, future elected authorities and international stakeholders.

22. **Mr. Edghill** (Observer for Trinidad and Tobago) said that international and regional financial institutions, traditional donor partners as well as developing countries, in the context of South-South cooperation, must take remedial action over the short, medium and long terms to address the dire socio-economic conditions prevailing in Haiti. Such action should be taken immediately if the Millennium Development Goals, especially with respect to the reduction of extreme poverty, were to be achieved in the time frames indicated. Progress had been made for instance in economic governance and as more progress was made in public sector budgeting and execution, he hoped that more funding would be channelled through government mechanisms rather than through civil society actors. However, there were problems with respect to attracting and retaining qualified and reliable public service personnel, the environment, the administration of justice and land titling.

23. Noting that Haiti was emerging from a quasi internal conflict, he said that the lack of security was a grave problem; indeed, nowhere was the link between security and development more evident than in Haiti. Accordingly, the international donor community must take urgent steps to provide the necessary funding to assist the Haitian authorities in implementing an effective and sustained disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme targeting not only former members of the Haitian armed forces but also other illegal armed groups in order to reduce the daily violence meted out to Haitians.

24. He fully endorsed the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's recommendations on Haiti's socio-economic situation. In particular, the international community should find a way to disburse the nearly $2 billion pledged at the International Donors Conference in Washington in July 2004 and act more flexibly in disbursing funds to implement the 360 so-called "quick win" projects identified at the follow-up meeting in Cayenne. The United Nations and its agencies, funds and programmes must also have a more robust presence in Haiti, while the Bretton Woods institutions should consider the sustainability of Haiti's debt, the implications of a heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative for Haiti coupled with the outright cancellation of its bilateral and multilateral debt. He supported the extension of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mandate at least until June 2006. The international community must provide all possible support to the Haitian people and authorities in their quest for a better quality of life in all spheres.

25. **Ms. Low** (United States of America) reiterated her Government's deep commitment to the recovery and political process in Haiti, noting that it had

allocated nearly $400 million since fiscal year 2004 in support of that process. It was important for the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to heed the decision of the Council, as adopted in resolution 2004/52, to avoid duplication with existing mechanisms. In particular, the Advisory Group should not seek to expand its mandate into areas that were properly the concerns of the Security Council. In that regard, it was inappropriate for the Advisory Group to include in its report recommendations on the role of MINUSTAH, a body that was under the jurisdiction of the Security Council.

26. **Mr. Pirogov** (Russian Federation) expressed concern at the lack of a clear development strategy for Haiti. The new government should identify its short-, medium- and long-term development priorities taking into account the work that had been carried out in elaborating a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In its future work, the Group should provide full support to the Haitian authorities in that respect. Unfortunately, the Group had been unable to avoid duplication in its work with other United Nations mechanisms. The Group's recommendation concerning MINUSTAH, which reported to the Security Council, was inappropriate and outside its mandate established by the Economic and Social Council. Indeed, the Group's experience would be invaluable when the Peacebuilding Commission was established.

27. **Mr. Rock** (Chairman, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti) said that the Ad Hoc Group would renew its efforts to focus on the long-term development of Haiti. Commenting on the observations of the United States and Russian delegations, he noted that the Group's mandate was to consider the long-term development strategy for Haiti, which was impossible to do without making recommendations on MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team. Furthermore, Member States were actively considering the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission; that would only succeed if a larger view was taken as to what was necessary from the practical point of view to bring about an improvement in Haiti's situation. While he understood the technical lines that separated the jurisdiction of one body from another, he believed that a practical approach should be taken. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group had worked closely with the Security Council during the joint visit to Haiti and its recommendations were intended to reflect a shared commitment that practical steps needed to be taken urgently, including by MINUSTAH, to set Haiti on the long difficult road to recovery.

The meeting was suspended at 4.40 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.

(h) Ad hoc Advisory Groups on African countries emerging from conflict (E/2005/70 and 82)

28. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa), introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi (E/2005/82), said that the security climate during the recent general elections augured well for the future and that the Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) programme now under way was an important step forward. However, the humanitarian, economic and social situation in Burundi remained difficult; 150,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) had returned to Burundi since the beginning of 2004 and food insecurity was prevalent. That had prompted the World Food Programme to appeal for food aid disbursements to counter projected declines in food stocks.

29. Economic growth had been estimated at 5.3 per cent in 2004, but sustained poverty alleviation would depend on Burundi's ability to improve economic governance, promote rural development and increase infrastructural development and diversify the economy. Hence international support was crucial.

30. The report highlighted new international support to Burundi. This included new African Development Bank loans; donor support for DDR needs; an increased disbursement of funds received in response to the Consolidated Appeal Process; and important efforts by United Nations agencies — including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) — in such areas as poverty alleviation, governance and HIV/AIDS for a total funding of US$ 80 million. However, that was below the US$ 1 billion commitments made at the Forum of Development Partners of Burundi held in Brussels in January 2004. Burundi's high level of indebtedness was also hampering development. In that context, the Ad Hoc Group was recommending that a round-table meeting be held in the near future, for requisite levels of international assistance were crucial for the newly elected Government.

31. **Ms. Miller** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that Burundi's new path to political peace following a decade of conflict was a positive development, although serious challenges remained. The Group of 77 and China believed that the international community should provide Burundi with sustained support; accordingly all pledges should be fully respected. The Group agreed with the Secretary-General's view that improvement in the economic and social situation of Burundi would help strengthen political stability and sustain peace.

32. The Group also called on the Bretton Woods institutions and others to provide assistance to address Burundi's short- and medium-term development requirements and help it complete its poverty reduction strategy paper. The Group supported the convening of a donor round table to bolster the new Government in the post-transition phase, as well as the recommendation that the Ad Hoc Group should promote a round-table meeting with Burundi's development partners, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the call for an extension of the Ad Hoc Group's mandate.

33. **Ms. Moir** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, welcomed the progress made in Burundi over the past year, particularly with respect to the ongoing election process, the continuing forward momentum in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons underpinned by international support. However, issues such as providing food security, preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing support to its victims, strengthening governance and encouraging sound financial management remained critical challenges.

34. The European Union agreed with the Ad Hoc Group's recommendation that the international community should continue to provide strong support to the Government to meet the short- and medium-term needs based on the priorities of the poverty reduction strategy paper, and to finance the Consolidated Appeal Process for 2005. However, while the European Union remained committed to providing assistance for Burundi at the current critical time to ensure that the foundations were laid for long-term peace and security, it believed that the modalities of such support should be decided upon by the Government with lead donors. In that regard, the European Union was not convinced of the value of the Ad Hoc Group promoting a donor round-table meeting.

35. As a matter of principle, all ad hoc groups should have a limited lifespan. The Ad Hoc Group had played a useful role thus far and should continue until the new Government was in place. However, thereafter, a further extension to the mandate should be considered and re-evaluated by the Council in the light of developments on the proposed peacebuilding commission. Furthermore, the experience of the ad hoc advisory groups on countries emerging from conflict could be taken into account in the broader context of ongoing discussions on the establishment of a peacebuilding commission.

36. **Mr. Pirogov** (Russian Federation) noted that the presidential elections scheduled for mid-August would mark the end of the transition period in Burundi, and should bring about a consolidation of society, one of the prerequisites for a more rapid move towards sustained development. The Ad Hoc Group had contributed to the attainment of that goal, in particular through its effort to implement the conclusions of the Forum of Development Partners of Burundi, held in Brussels in January 2004, in the development sphere. The Russian Federation also positively assessed the Ad Hoc Group's work in drawing the international community's attention to the need to assist Burundi in completing its poverty reduction strategy paper.

37. **Mr. Nkingiye** (Burundi) said that on account of war and conflict, the country had gone backwards; poverty has nearly doubled over the past 15 years and 68 per cent of the population was malnourished; only 20 per cent had access to health services. His delegation hoped that donors would increase their aid substantially to support the peace process in Burundi. His Government was making every effort to ensure that Burundi benefited from the HIPC Debt Initiative. It hoped that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group would be extended.

38. **Ms. Liu** Zhongxin (China) expressed the hope that many countries and international financial institutions would help Burundi and Guinea-Bissau. Priority should be accorded to alleviating the suffering

Bissau and it had given strong political, economic and technical support to both countries. It would continue to do so.

39. **Mr. Vaher** (UNICEF) said that despite the significant progress made in the political transition, children still faced daunting challenges including high mortality from mostly preventable diseases in an environment of widespread poverty and limited capacity of the public authorities. UNICEF-supported programmes were focused on providing basic social services to the neediest and most vulnerable groups, in such areas as health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation and HIV/AIDS.

40. UNICEF was providing support in a number of key areas. The back-to-school campaign had helped half a million children return to school; immunization rates had increased; new treatment protocols for malaria had been approved and 2.2 million people had been treated with new drugs provided by UNICEF; about 3,000 child soldiers had been demobilized and reintegrated into their communities; support to victims of sexual violence was being provided; and UNICEF, with other United Nations agencies, was helping to meet the basic needs of 80,000 returnees.

41. Implementation of these programmes had faced several challenges. These included lack of security, ongoing violations of children's rights, including sexual exploitation and abuse; the near collapse of the social sectors as a result of the conflict; lack of jobs, basic services and security. There were not enough funds to address all humanitarian, economic and social needs. UNICEF had received only 41 per cent of the total US$ 27 million requested in 2004 and only one third of the US$ 20.8 million requested for 2005. The transition in Burundi was entering an important phase and continued support by the international community was essential.

42. **Ms. Oduneye** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the African Union, commended the Government and people of Burundi for their commitment to the peace process and called on donors to fulfil the commitments made at the Forum of Development Partners. The Ad Hoc Group should continue its work until a new Government came into office.

43. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa), introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (E/2005/70), said that the political and economic situation remained fragile. The consolidation of peace and democracy could be achieved only through the constant vigilance of the people and of the international community. The European Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries had already done much to help defuse tensions among the various parties.

44. Two key recommendations were worthy of reiteration. the first concerned the need to help Guinea-Bissau with a comprehensive technical assistance plan for capacity-building. The second concerned the need to help Guinea-Bissau formulate a comprehensive economic diversification strategy; currently the country relied on one export crop. Intensified development of agriculture and mining was therefore needed. In that connection, the Ad Hoc Group had stressed the need for funding and support for the donor round table which was scheduled for later in the year.

45. Finally, the Ad Hoc Group had been encouraged by the oath recently taken by senior military officers not to disturb the political process and by the Government's continued commitment to economic reform. However, it believed that it should continue to monitor the evolving situation until the Council's next substantive session.

46. **Mr. Balima** (UNDP Resident Coordinator in Guinea-Bissau) said that the first round of Guinea-Bissau's presidential elections had taken place in an atmosphere of calm and voter turnout had been high. The international community had played a critical role in stabilizing the political situation and enabling the holding of credible elections. The country's future prospects would be depend largely on the completion of the political transition.

47. Guinea-Bissau faced great challenges: 60 per cent of the population, mostly young, were unemployed; 65 per cent lived below the poverty line; 44 per cent had no access to safe drinking water; and 30 per cent of children under five were malnourished. The country's overall debt amounted to more than $1 billion. Currently, only 36 per cent of available arable land was being cultivated due to lack of agricultural inputs and expertise and insufficient or damaged drainage and irrigation systems. Funding was therefore urgently needed. He urged donor nations to make firm commitments of support at the forthcoming donor round table. The international community had

promised to assist Guinea-Bissau upon full completion of the political transition and it must now deliver.

48. **Ms. Miller** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was clear that Guinea-Bissau was in urgent need of sustained assistance from the donor community and that the situation in the country remained fragile. While confident that Guinea-Bissau was moving in the right direction, the Group of 77 and China believed that such progress could be severely hampered should the financial crisis continue. It therefore called for full and early fulfilment of commitments made to Africa, including those made at the recent Group of Eight meeting, and endorsed the proposal by the Ad Hoc Group to expand the donor base for Guinea-Bissau.

49. Given the significant role played by African regional organizations in supporting Guinea-Bissau — the West African Economic and Monetary Union had been the largest donor in 2004 — the Ad Hoc Group should explore ways of expanding its contacts with subregional groups in West Africa.

50. The Group of 77 and China believed that the United Nations system and donor countries should continue to support formulation of a comprehensive diversification strategy so as to avoid continued dependence on one export crop which was highly susceptible to price fluctuations. Diversification would not only remove such dependence, but would also reduce the country's dependence on Official Development Assistance (ODA), contribute positively to sustainable development and be a vital contribution to strategies for peacebuilding. The Group of 77 and China further endorsed the importance of reform of the security sector and called on all donors to assist in that area.

51. Finally, she said that the Group of 77 and China endorsed the extension of the mandates of both Ad Hoc Advisory Groups to the next substantive session of the Council.

52. **Ms. Moir** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, said that, while welcoming the peaceful and orderly conduct of the first round of presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau in June 2005, the European Union remained concerned by the situation in the country. Given the number of serious disturbances over the past year, Guinea-Bissau would clearly continue to require sustained attention from the United Nations and the international community in order to complete the transition process successfully.

53. Turning to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, she said that security sector reform should clearly be a major priority for the Government and the international community alike, as without such reform, the tensions within the military would contribute to political instability and uncertainty. The European Union therefore welcomed any support for such reform, such as that from Brazil noted in the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau (S/2005/380). It also recognized the difficulties of uncertain donor financing for basic service delivery. Although economic conditions remained critical, it should be noted that the Government had made further improvements to fiscal management. The European Union welcomed the contributions in budget support made through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-managed Economic Emergency Management Fund (EEMF) by France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal — on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries — and Sweden. The European Commission was currently preparing a direct budget support contribution to be disbursed by the end of 2005.

54. While recognizing that the Group's proposed activities for the coming year could be useful, the European Union encouraged the Ad Hoc Group not only to focus on advocacy, but also to review the coordination aspects of the programme of support to Guinea-Bissau and to work in close partnership with the United Nations country team, the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), the Bretton Woods institutions, donors and relevant regional organizations. While the European Union believed that the Ad Hoc Group's mandate should be extended until July 2006, the renewal of its mandate should also be re-evaluated in the light of developments on the Peacebuilding Commission. The experience of the ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict could be taken into account in the context of ongoing discussions on the establishment of such a commission.

55. **Ms. Lopes D'Alva** (Guinea-Bissau) noted that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group had always stressed the vital link between political stability and economic development in Guinea-Bissau and the need for the positive involvement of the international community. The people of Guinea-Bissau were tired of uncertainty; they needed stability in order to concentrate on achieving their development goals. Once the elections were completed, Guinea-Bissau would still need the support of the international community in order to solve its immediate problems in the areas of public administration, education and health. In that connection, she thanked the Governments of Cuba and Portugal for their assistance in battling the current cholera outbreak which had killed many people.

56. Her Government supported the Group's recommendations made in the first report, some of which were already reflected in its own national plan. It had taken steps to improve fiscal management, and there was now a more technocratic approach to decision-making. However, much remained to be done, and the Government would need considerable support.

57. **Mr. Pirogov** (Russian Federation) said that the success of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, especially in the initial stages of its activities, gave rise to the hope that the Council's role in the area of peacebuilding activities would be strengthened. His Government continued to support the partnership approach between Guinea-Bissau and the donor community aimed at establishing constructive dialogue with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau, with respect by both sides of their relevant commitments. The creation at the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the UNDP-managed Emergency Economic Management Fund had helped stabilize the situation and attract donor resources to the country in the first stages after its emergence from conflict.

58. Noting the concern at the fact that some of the Ad Hoc Group's recommendations, while initially supported, were subsequently ignored thereby calling into question the effectiveness of its work, he said that his delegation had frequently pointed out that ad hoc groups should be temporary instruments. Finally, he supported the conclusion that the experience of the ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflicts should be taken into account in the broader context of discussions on the proposed Peacebuilding Commission (para. 45), and noted that the specifics of interaction between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council should be addressed within that context.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.